

Prophecy Unveiled - Daniel Chapter 12

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Last week we looked at the prophetic parables of Matthew 25 and learned that the big picture of these prophetic pictures is Relationship

1. A real relationship is PERSONAL
2. A real relationship GROWS
3. A real relationship PRODUCES FRUIT

I want to jump back to the Old Testament book of Daniel this morning and examine the prophecies contained in Chapter 12, the last chapter of Daniel, which, as we have already seen, is a very prophetic book - containing prophecies...

- that were fulfilled in Daniel's day and immediate future,
- prophecies that were fulfilled with the coming of The Messiah and the times surrounding his life,
- prophecies that bring us up to and include our current day and
- prophecies of the last days, the rise of the Antichrist, the great tribulation, and the establishment of Gods eternal Kingdom.

Today we only have time to examine the first 4 verses of that chapter

Daniel 12:1-4

12 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. 2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise.

Angels and demonic principalities play an important role in the events of the book of Daniel and remind us of the spiritual warfare that continues to be fought over God's creation and his plan of salvation and redemption

There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.

The angel's message to Daniel is a prophecy of what will happen in the last days, and here, specifically refers to the period of the great tribulation referenced also in Matthew 24 and other New Testament prophecies

But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered.

The message also reveals God's plan of salvation for those times of distress, as well as for the eternal distress of hell, by reminding us that those who have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ (names written in the book of life-new life that is) will be delivered

Last month (November) in Israel, our staff organized a four-day retreat for Holocaust survivors. At the end of the retreat, one of the men talked with us for two more hours and prayed to receive Jesus (Yeshua) as his Messiah and Savior! – Chosen People Ministries

One of our Israeli staff had a meaningful conversation earlier this month (December) with two Orthodox rabbis. Afterward, he noticed that one of the rabbis published a Facebook post about Yeshua. Amazingly, the post read, "This morning, instead of going to pray the traditional prayers in the synagogue, I opened the New Testament and read the Gospel of Matthew. Then I read the Sermon on the Mountain. And I have to say that never in all my life have I read something more Jewish, wise, and godly." Wow! Such an open confession from an Orthodox rabbi is rare. Please pray for him to receive Jesus as his Savior! – Chosen People Ministries

2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

This part of the message specifically refers to the rapture of the church - which includes those who have died in Christ and the resurrection of the wicked dead (those who have not believed in Jesus Christ, repented of their sins, and asked him to be their Lord and Savior, and walked in relationship with Him). The first will spend eternity in heaven. The second, eternity in hell

3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Those who understand and act upon God's promises of salvation and relationship and those who help others understand

Leo Tolstoy, the famous Russian writer, told of his conversion to Christ which changed his life and behavior. He described how salvation made a wonderful difference in his thinking and turned him from evil to good. He said, "Five years ago faith came to me; I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, and all my life was changed. I ceased to desire what I had previously liked, and, I began to desire things I had never liked before. What formerly appeared good in my eyes, appeared evil, and what before appeared evil, I considered good."

Today you too can experience this remarkable change. Just believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and invite Him to give you this heavenly gift. Romans 10:9-10: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation – C. Dean McCormick

4 But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.

Again, the angel reminds Daniel that these things refer to the end, or last days. A long way off for his time

Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

Game

This final part of the angel's message describes the people of the last days. They will have great Ability (technology) to go here and there (anywhere they want). They will rely on this ability and this technology more than they will God. There will be many things happening (the distress spoken of in verse 1 as well as the advancement of science and technology) but that increase of, and availability of, knowledge will not necessarily lead to true wisdom which the Bible says is the fear of God (knowledge, understanding and reverence of God) the wisdom spoken of earlier in this verse

I want to be ready. I want to be wise. I don't want to be distracted by the things of this world. I don't want to rely on human knowledge and understanding. I want to be wise about the things of God more than the things of man

Pastor Lindsey is coming to teach us how we can keep our eyes on Jesus and not be distracted by the things going on around us